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SUBJECT Coal Mines for the Briz Hydroelectric Installation

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1. Coal mining: The Brück (N 51/F 13) area coal mines supply the Brück hydroelectric installation exclusively. The coal of these mines lies below lignite which is usually extracted by open pit mining. The mining is done at a depth of 400-700 meters, and the coal obtained is well suited for use in the hydroelectric plant. Although there has been considerable increase in production from the Brück coal mines, it is still necessary for the hydroelectric works to ship in coal from other areas. "While unloading cars within the hydroelectric installation, source saw a few loading and shipping labels from the Pilsen area." These cars were shipped out loaded with lignite.
2. The coal mines in the Brück district are directed by the Soviet central office. However, Russians appear less frequently than is the case at the Jachymov uranium mining area.
3. There are approximately 12-14 coal mines serving the hydroelectric installation in the rather small Brück area, including Niedergeorgenthal, Oberlautensdorf and Johnsdorf (all N 51/F 13). These include Zentrum, Kolumbus, Himmelsfürst, Anna, Marie and Guido I, II and III.
4. The Zentrum mine has one very efficient shaft built in 1946 and able to carry eight cars up and down the four lifts. Signal equipment is acoustic and optical. The ventilating system is good. Some of the blasting is done behind iron plates such as used in the Ruhr mines. During the day a special sorting arrangement is in operation. The coal is transported by Diesel locomotives on a spur adjoining the mine. From the mine, the coal cars are dispatched to the hydroelectric works. Some of the mines, such as Himmelsfürst, Kolumbus and Guido, have small sidings which are used in common. Daily production at the Zentrum mine is approximately 1,100 tons. Work is done in three shifts with the night shift serving as repair crew. Personnel numbers about 1,100 to 1,200.
5. Brück Hydroelectric Installation: Formerly this installation was known as Herman Göring Brück Hydroelectric Installation; at present it is named Josef Stalin Hydroelectric Installation. The plant and its production are under the control of the Soviet High Command, and everything possible is done to keep unreliable persons away from actual production. After the end of the war in May 1945 the hydroelectric plant was dormant for three months. Then the Russians, seeking

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to gain control of production, ordered reconstruction and reactivation. It is reported that the subterranean sections, Block 21, which were destroyed by the Germans, have not been reconstructed, and that the Russians have limited building to the installations above ground. By 1949 - '50 the evidences of war had practically disappeared, and it is reported that 60 percent of the plant is in operation. Reconstruction is progressing rapidly and plans have been made to restore the plant to its former capacity.

6. Production has not reached its former level. In 1944-45, 380-400 tank cars left the plant daily; in 1949 production dropped to 120-150. Production serves the Russians only to a limited degree; tank cars are also sent to Slovakia, Hungary, Rumania and some to the occupation army in the Russian Zone of Germany.
7. Electric power is supplied from Komotau (N 51/F 02) where a new power plant was built at the time of the German occupation.
8. The installation is reportedly under the direction of an MVD major. Personnel figures are difficult to estimate because of changes in student brigades and the addition of convicts. At the time of the German occupation the plant employed 8,000-10,000 persons. However, this figure in all probability has not yet been reached unless those engaged in reconstruction are to be counted. Shortly after the end of the war the plant reportedly had 15,000 persons removing debris and working under extremely poor conditions.

25X1A * Comment: They may have been from Munschan (N50/F93).